SIDNEY GARSIDE, M.Sc., F.L.S.
(1889—1961)

Sidney Garside was born on January 28, 1889 in Ashton-under-Lyne, an industrial town six miles from Manchester. There he attended the Manchester Grammar School, matriculating in 1907, and there also, at the Victoria University, after taking his B.Sc. degree in 1910, he obtained his M.Sc. degree in June 1911, specializing in Botany.

During this period of his life, apart from his devotion to science and interest in drawing and water-colour painting, he was known as a "champion gymnast" and a "splendid swimmer". His teaching-career began as lecturer in Botany at the Royal Technical College at Salford, very near Manchester, but was soon to be extended to thousands of miles. For, in January 1912, he was appointed the second lecturer in Botany at the Victoria College in Stellenbosch, his subject being mainly plant-physiology. Dr. (Miss) A. V. Duthie, who had been in sole charge of this department for several years previously, was his colleague, and a warm friendship begun there lasted to the end of his life.

Another such link was forged about the same time with genial Mr. Harry Hayes ("Uncle Harry" to many children), who was his efficient "guide and philosopher" as well in all practical business affairs, and whom he appointed as the executor of his estate. As kindred spirits, Mr. Garside soon got into touch with Dr. R. Marloth, and accompanied him on botanical expeditions. Most of his own collecting was done on his bicycle, and the 2,500 of these collections that were purchased by the Kew Herbarium in June 1938 were regarded by that Institution as its "most outstanding acquisition of recent years".*

In December 1920, Mr. Garside returned to England and became lecturer in Botany at Bedford College in June 1921 and Recognized Teacher of the University of London in December 1921, resigning in 1938. Those eighteen years were filled to overflowing. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society in 1922 and served on its Council for the three years 1935–1937, attended vacation-courses at Geneva in 1925 and 1928, and between 1929 (with the British Association when it met in Cape Town that year) and 1937, made six visits to South Africa in connection with his work on the *Proteaceae* (anatomy and structure of flowers, pollen, etc.).

The Bolus Herbarium was then stationed at Kirstenbosch and the Protea Garden, already well established there, provided ample material.

---

* *Kew Bull.* 1938: 507.

He had originally intended this work to be the subject of a thesis for a D.Sc. degree, but gave up the idea and only the small part of it now known as "Garside's Law" was published.† (It is hoped that the remainder of his MS has been preserved and that it may be used in conjunction with further future study of this family.)

In addition to these strictly scientific activities there were endless interests connected with lectures, plays, music, painting (he gained several art certificates at South Kensington), and the many happy hours of browsing in the fascinating bookshops of London. Well do I remember how much my husband and I enjoyed the recounting of some of these delights, when we had him all to ourselves during those visits from England. On such occasions he seemed to be the embodiment of the three men described in Bacon's famous trilogy—"Reading maketh a full man, writing an exact man, and talking a ready man."

It was verily a blessed day for the Bolus Herbarium when Mr. Garside walked into our fine newly acquired building in November 1938 to be warmly welcomed by all his old friends there and to renew his entirely voluntary‡ services to the University of Cape Town. About the same time, Dr. Duthie retired after some thirty-six years of lecturing in the University of Stellenbosch, and it was to Mr. Garside's special care she felt she was entrusting her valuable collection of cryptogams (now amplified and, as it were, enshrined by his work) when she presented them to the Bolus Herbarium, and was supremely happy; while I, well advanced in the latter half of my fifty-two years' tenure of curatorship, rejoiced in the possession of a staunch and able ally. For, from the earliest years after his first arrival in South Africa, he had befriended the Bolus Herbarium in more ways than I can easily enumerate. But I *can* say, with a heart full of gratitude, that his genial interest in its welfare and progress never flagged. Throughout, he was always ready to discuss our difficulties with us—one and all, from the laboratory assistant to the curator—giving us the full benefit of his extensive knowledge, experience and sound judgment, both in practical as well as in scientific matters, never satisfied until he had solved them. In his leisure intervals he would even search for the shops and firms that could best and most reasonably supply us with steel cabinets, best quality cellophane, bookcases and much else—all of which meant a great deal to us, considering our limited time and means.

---

†Garside dealt with the arrangement of young spores in the pollen tetrads of *Leucadendron argenteum*. Each pollen grain has three pores, and he found that in the tetrad the pores of three spores are adjacent to one another. This means that there are four points at each of which there are three pores. This principle G. Erdtmann ("Pollen Morphology and Plant Taxonomy"—*Anno* 1952) calls "Garside's Law" as opposed to "Fischer's Law" for other plants, where the pores meet in pairs at six points. Garside also showed that in *Proteaceae* the three pores were not the homologues of the three folds (Colpae) of many other dicotyledons.

‡Except for the short time he was appointed Special Demonstrator in 1943 and until 1946 in the Botany Department.

One of his greatest concerns from the beginning was the Bolus Herbarium Library, where he soon found there were still many gaps among the rare and important works dealing with South African botany that he believed he could help to fill by hunting in the bookshops oversea, and he accordingly made a list of them. When he returned to England in 1920 the successful search began. At the same time he was completing, as far as possible, literature dealing with the cryptogams (*Lichenes* and *Bryophyta*). All these he generously presented to the Bolus Herbarium. They represent the fruits of a labour that no one else available could have yielded and are much prized. The rest of his library was bequeathed to the Bolus Herbarium, and the duplicates of any already there are on permanent loan to the Compton Herbarium at Kirstenbosch.

After the many hours studiously spent in our library, Mr. Garside gained a much deeper insight into the matter of its contents than anyone else had and, as so much of his knowledge was on the tip of his tongue, he could give us information that might have taken us much time that we could ill spare to extract. (He was certainly the "cheerful giver" whom "the Lord loveth"!) His papers relating to historical botany and his "précis" of the works on South African botany compiled for the Van Riebeeck Centenary Festival may be mentioned as some evidence of this intimate knowledge.

In the Herbarium he found an almost negligible number of mosses and lichens, and immediately set to work zealously at building up a collection of cryptogams (excluding Fungi and Algae) that would be available for students. He inspired collectors and named their specimens, and when leading botanists in Europe came to South Africa he entertained them, and his library was at their disposal. As there was no one else on our staff who could possibly find time to assist him, Mr. Garside undertook the arduous and tedious task himself of labelling and arranging the numerous collections that were received—all done with most exemplary precision and neatness. Indeed there was nothing slipshod or hasty in anything he did, be it preparing and serving a tasty meal in his well-appointed home or researching in the morphology of the pollen-grains of *Proteaceae*. But much of his scientific work regrettably remains unpublished for, if it fell short of his ideal of perfection, publication was delayed; and, even though one might plead that as far as it went it *was* perfect and, if recorded would be useful, he seldom, if ever, yielded.

"Mr. Garside was a true scientist," wrote Dr. Duthie, "and all his work was done in a truly religious spirit. He gave unstintingly of his accurate knowledge and goodwill; nothing ever seemed too much trouble." (To such as he was "life is of value only because it can be spent, or given".) His work on *Riccia* and *Riccianella*, revived from earlier years, lasted to the end of his life. He died in Cape Town on November 3, 1961, within a day or two after an operation in the Volkshospitaal.

The most outstanding quality of Sidney Garside's character was his complete sincerity, free from posing or affectation of any kind—one, as the Psalmist sang, "that speaketh the truth in his heart". Self-reliant and composed (one never saw him perturbed or hot and bothered), cheerful, considerate and courteous, he obeyed, no doubt quite unconsciously, the injunctions given to our first parent, *after* the "loss of Eden", by the Archangel Michael—

"Nor love thy Life, nor hate; but what thou liv'st
Live well, how long or short permit to Heav'n:"**

The University contemplated conferring in June 1962 an Honorary Doctorate upon Mr. Garside in grateful recognition of the devoted service he had rendered the Bolus Herbarium, freely and continuously, as Honorary Reader in Systematic Botany (Cryptogams: *Bryophyta and Lichenes*), for so many years. In supporting this view the Curator of the Herbarium, Dr. E. A. Schelpe, wrote to the Principal in 1960:

> "Mr. S. Garside has been in his retirement, a most diligent, albeit unobtrusive, contributor to the enhancement of the international status of a research institute in the University.
>
> "His exceptional knowledge of the older botanical literature has been invaluable in advising on the improvement and extension of the Bolus Herbarium Library. Not only has Mr. Garside given freely of his advice on book purchases but he has presented to the library of the Herbarium botanical works worth several hundreds of pounds. Amongst the most valuable both in rarity and usefulness are pre-Linnaean works such as Ray's 'Historia Plantarum' and a complete set of Plukenet's 'Opera'. His gifts to the Herbarium Library on cryptogamic botany are equally considerable.
>
> "Mr. Garside's work in the Herbarium itself deserves special mention. The fact that the Bolus Herbarium now has the most completely worked and documented collection of bryophytes and lichens of any herbarium in Africa is mostly due to his efforts. His influence has been such that the library appertaining to these sections is probably the best in the continent. His persistence in encouraging local botanical collectors to take an interest in these otherwise neglected plants and his contacts with overseas experts in this field have done much to

---

**Milton, "Paradise Lost", Bk. xi, ll. 549–550.

establish the international importance of the bryophyte and lichen collections of the Herbarium."

H. M. L. Bolus and J. P. Jessop.

Bolus Herbarium,
University of Cape Town.

Publications.

1918 Pollen Presentation in *Cryptostemma calendulaceum* R. Br. (*Annals Bolus Herb. vol.* **2,** *pp.* 149–152.)

1922 The Pollination of *Satyrium bicallosum* Thunb. (*Annals Bolus Herb. vol.* **3,** *pp.* 147–154.)

1929 The Structure and Mode of Reproduction of *Siphula tabularis* Ny. (*Trans. Brit. Mycological Soc. vol.* **14,** *pp.* 60–68.)

1930 Garside, S. and S. Lockyer. Seed Dispersal from the hygroscopic Fruits of *Carpanthea* (*Mesembryanthemum*) *pomeridiana* N. E. Br. (*Annals Bot. vol.* **44,** *pp.* 639–655.)

1935 A Revision of the Characters of *Neodregea.* (*Kew Bull. No.* 5, *pp.* 292–298.)

1936 The South African Species of *Spiloxene* Salisb. (*Journ. Bot. vol.* **74,** *pp.* 267–269.)

—— Botanical Tour at the Cape. (*Proc. Linn. Soc. London,* 148*th session, pt.* 2 *pp.* 79–81.)

1937 Duthie, A. V. and S. Garside. Studies in South African Ricciaceae.
1. Three annual Species. (*Trans. Royal Soc. S. Africa, vol.* **24,** *pp.* 93–133.)

1938 Some natural *Leucadendron* Hybrids. (*Proc. Linn. Soc. London,* 150*th session, pt.* 2, *pp.* 107–108.)

1940 Duthie, A. V. and S. Garside. Studies in South African Ricciaceae.
2. The annual Species of the Section Ricciella (Concluded). (*Trans. Royal Soc. S. Africa, vol.* **27,** *pp.* 17–28.)

—— Sir J. Barrow's Copy of Aiton's "Hortus Kewensis". (*Journ. S. African Bot. vol.* **vi,** *pp.* 71–72.)

1942 Baron Jacquin and the Schönbrunn Gardens. (*Journ. S. African Bot. vol.* **viii,** *pp.* 201–224.)

—— Plantae Novae Africanae (by several authors). By Garside, S.: *Spiloxene canaliculata* Garside (Hypoxidaceae). (*Journ. S. African Bot. vol.* **viii,** *pp.* 249–252.)

1946 The developmental Morphology of the Pollen of Proteaceae. (*Journ. S. African Bot. vol.* **xii,** *pp.* 27–34.) (A description of the arrangement of the germ-pores in the pollen tetrad. This arrangement is known as "Garside's Law".)

1949 *Sphagnum* in South Africa. (*Journ. S. African Bot. vol.* **xv,** *pp.* 59–78.)

1950 The Flora of the Cape Peninsula, edited by Adamson, R. S. and Salter, T. M. (Cape Town). By Garside, S.: The Genera *Spiloxene, Pauridium* and *Empodium* (Amaryllidaceae), pp. 214–217.

1951 The South African Fungi and Lichens, to the end of 1945, by Doidge, E. M. A Review of the above Work, with Notes on the Lichen Flora of South Africa. (*Journ. S. African Bot. vol.* **xvii,** *pp.* 85–89.)

1952 South Africa in Print. (Book Exhibition Committee, Van Riebeeck Festival, Cape Town). By Garside, S.: South African Flora, pp. 148–156. (An annotated, selected list of books on South African Botany, with a brief summary of the history of South African Botany.)

1958 Studies in South African Ricciaceae.
3. A new Species of *Oxymitra.* (*Journ. S. African Bot. vol.* **xxiv,** *pp.* 83–87.)

S. Garside (1889–1961).